



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

# Ms. Coll. 12

## Emerson and Nichols Families Papers, 1818-1958: Guide

### COLLECTION SUMMARY

**Creator:** Nichols family and Emerson family.

**Call Number:** Ms. Coll. 12

**Extent:** 5 boxes (5 linear feet)

**Preferred Citation Style:** *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Emerson and Nichols Families Papers.  
State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

**About This Finding Aid:** Description based on DACS.

**Processed by:** Finding aid prepared by Kathryn Gabriel, 1985. Updated by March Widershien, 1986. Updated by Abigail Cramer, March, 2012.

**Abstract:** This collection documents the Emerson and Nichols families, in particular sisters Eugenie Homer Emerson and Elizabeth Homer Nichols, in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

### SCOPE AND CONTENT

Series I: Emerson Family contains material about the Emerson family, mostly correspondence and other papers of Oliver Pomeroy Emerson and Eugenie Homer Emerson. Also included are materials from Nathaniel F. Emerson, John S. Emerson and Charles B. Emerson.

Series II: Nichols Family contains items belonging to Arthur Nichols' parents, John P. Nichols and Mary Ann Nichols. It also includes materials belonging to Arthur and Elizabeth Homer Nichols, primarily correspondence, professional papers and financial documents. Also included is correspondence to Elizabeth Nichols as well as correspondence and other materials of the two

Nichols daughters, Rose S. Nichols and Marian C. Nichols. Correspondence is arranged by correspondent when volume warrants such arrangement. In all cases, correspondence is arranged by date received.

Series III: Homer Family contains some correspondence and papers of the Homer family.

Series IV: St. Gaudens Family includes letters to Augusta Saint Gaudens as well as letters to and from Augustus Saint Gaudens.

Series V: Miscellaneous contains papers and correspondence of various civic organizations especially the National Civic League and the Beacon Hill Civic Association. Also included are newspaper and journal articles related to politics, history and business. It is not clear who collected these articles.

Series VI: Photographs contains a large number of photographs, most of which are unidentified.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

The bulk of the collection concerns the personal papers of the Emerson and Nichols families. It contains in particular the papers of the Rev. Oliver Pomeroy Emerson and Eugenie Homer Emerson and of Arthur H. Nichols and Elizabeth Homer Nichols. Small amounts of material from other family members are also included.

Elizabeth Nichols and Eugenie Emerson were sisters; their family name was Homer. They also held close ties to their siblings, Augusta Frederika (1848-1926), Joseph Warren (1851-1934) and Thomas Johnston (1858-1937). Augusta married the sculptor Augustus Saint Gaudens, and a small amount of their correspondence is included in the collection.

Arthur Nichols (1840-1923) was a prominent Boston physician. Born in Newton, Massachusetts, he received his education from the Boston Public Latin School, later earning a degree in medicine from Harvard Medical School (1862). In 1868 Nichols married Elizabeth Fisher Homer (1844-1929) and had four children: Rose Standish, Marian Clarke, Sidney Homer and Margaret Homer. First living at 130 Warren Street, Roxbury, the family moved to 55 Mount Vernon Street on Boston's Beacon Hill. Their five-story home was built in 1804 and is open today as a museum by request of Rose Nichols, who continued to live there until her death in 1960.

Rose S. Nichols (1872-1960) was a landscape architect and the author of several gardening textbooks and articles on landscape design. Marian C. Nichols (1873-1963) was an active

legislative lobbyist, a member of the National Civic League and treasurer of the Beacon Hill Civic Association. Sidney Nichols (1875-1881) died of typhoid fever at the age of five. Margaret H. Nichols (1879-1959) married Arthur A. Shurtleff in 1905.

As already stated, Elizabeth Homer Nichols held close ties to her siblings, particularly Eugenie, who married into the Emerson family. Eugenie's husband was Oliver Pomeroy Emerson (1845-1938), who had a ministry for many years in Hawaii. Eugenie was one of the first five women to pass the Harvard University entrance examination.

Oliver Emerson's father, the Reverend John S. Emerson, was also a missionary in Hawaii, arriving there in 1832 and serving in that capacity until 1867. A few of his papers are included in the collection. Oliver Emerson was born on the island of Maui and was a graduate of Williams College and Andover Seminary. He returned to the Hawaiian Islands in 1888, serving there until 1905. Much of the correspondence of Oliver and Eugenie is from the time of their Hawaiian residence.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### ***Arrangement***

The papers are arranged in six series as follows:

*Series I: Emerson Family, 1831-1939*

*Series II: Nichols Family, 1818-1947*

*Series III: Homer Family, 1855-1929*

*Series IV: St. Gaudens Family, 1879-1906*

*Series V: Miscellaneous, 1784-1958*

*Series VI: Photographs, 1870-1934*

Within each series, an attempt has been made to arrange the material chronologically.

Correspondence has been separated out and precedes other materials within each series.

### ***Conditions Governing Access***

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

### ***Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use***

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

### ***Languages and Scripts***

Materials are entirely in English.

## ***Related Materials***

The following collections may also be of interest:

- Nichols-Shurtleff Family Papers, 1780-1953 (Schlesinger Library on the History of Women, Radcliffe Institute)
- Emerson-Nichols Papers, 1806-1953 (Schlesinger Library on the History of Women, Radcliffe Institute)

## ***Series Description and Container List***

### **Series I: Emerson Family, 1831-1939**

#### ***Scope and Content***

This series includes material about the Emerson family, mostly correspondence and other papers of Oliver Pomeroy Emerson and Eugenie Homer Emerson. Also included are materials from Nathaniel F. Emerson, John S. Emerson and Charles B. Emerson.

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	1-7	Emerson family papers, including those of Nathaniel F. Emerson, John S. Emerson and Charles B. Emerson	1831-1898
1	8	Material relating to the marriage of Oliver P. Emerson and Eugenie Homer Emerson	1877-1896
1	9-15	Correspondence from Oliver P. Emerson to Eugenie Emerson (7 folders)	1888-1908
1	16	Correspondence from Elizabeth F. Nichols to Eugenie Emerson	1866-1929
1	17-18	Miscellaneous Correspondence to Eugenie Emerson (2 folders)	1865-1938
1	19-23	Papers, notebooks, essays, sketchpads of Eugenie Emerson (5 folders)	1844-1937
1	24-25	Correspondence to and from Oliver P. Emerson (2 folders)	1874-1931
1	26-27	Papers of Oliver P. Emerson (2 folders)	1881-1939

## Series II: Nichols Family, 1818-1947

### *Scope and Content*

This series includes items belonging to Arthur Nichols' parents, John P. Nichols and Mary Ann Nichols. It also includes materials belonging to Arthur and Elizabeth Homer Nichols, primarily correspondence, professional papers and financial documents. Also included is correspondence to Elizabeth Nichols as well as correspondence and other materials of the two Nichols daughters, Rose S. Nichols and Marian C. Nichols. Correspondence is arranged by correspondent when volume warrants such arrangement. In all cases, correspondence is arranged by date received.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
2	28-34	Nichols family papers, including those of John P. Nichols, Mary Ann Nichols and Charles Nichols (7 folders)	1818-1924
2	35	13 blueprints: "Stores and apartments, Roxbury. Estate of John P. Nichols, Boston, 1899," A. H. Cox & W. E. Putnam Jr. Architects, Brookline, Ma.	1899
2	36-40	Correspondence to Arthur H. Nichols (5 folders)	1855-1920
2	41	Correspondence to Arthur H. Nichols from Augustus Saint Gaudens	1903
2	42-53	School papers, professional and financial records of Arthur H. Nichols (10 folders)	1852-1937
2	54	2 blueprints: "Dr. Arthur H. Nichols. Plan of land in Cornish, NH, 1920".	undated, 1920
2	55	7 blueprints: "Tenements of Dr. A.H. Nichols, Eustis St., Roxbury". Bradlee, Winslow & Wetherell Architects, Boston	undated
3	56-76	Correspondence to Elizabeth Nichols (21 folders)	1838-1929
3	77	Papers of Elizabeth Nichols	1856-1929
3	78	Correspondence to Rose Nichols	1892-1928

3	79-85	Papers, notebooks, etc. of Marian Nichols (includes material relating to the Women's City Club of Boston and the Beacon Hill Civic Association) (7 folders)	1887-1947
5	136	1 poster, "View of the triumphal arch and colonnade erected in Boston...;" inscribed "presented to Elizabeth Fisher (Homer) Nichols by Thomas Johnston Homer"	1927

### **Series III: Homer Family, 1855-1929**

#### ***Scope and Content***

This series includes correspondence and papers of the Homer family.

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
3	86-88	Homer family correspondence and papers (3 folders)	1855-1921
3	89	1 blueprint: "A plan of lands in Wrentham, Mass. made for Joseph H. Homer, July 6, 1929." Percy C. Peckman, Holbroke, MA. Surveyor	1929
3	90	Homer family correspondence and papers	1914

### **Series IV: St. Gaudens Family, 1879-1906**

#### ***Scope and Content***

This series includes letters to Augusta Saint Gaudens as well as letters to and from Augustus Saint Gaudens.

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
3	91-92	Correspondence to Augusta Saint Gaudens (2 folders)	1879-1906
3	93	Correspondence to and from Augustus Saint Gaudens	1880-1905

### **Series V: Miscellaneous, 1784-1958**

#### ***Scope and Content***

This series includes papers and correspondence of various civic organizations especially the National Civic League and the Beacon Hill Civic Association. Also included are newspaper and journal articles related to politics, history and business. It is not clear who collected these articles.

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
3	94	Correspondence, unidentified	1851-1929
4	95-102	Papers, correspondence, etc. concerning various civic organizations including the National Civil Service Reform League (8 folders)	1872-1958
4	103-111	Newspaper clippings (9 folders)	1841-1946
4	112-114	Journal articles (3 folders)	1846-1946
4	115-116	Miscellaneous material (2 folders)	undated, 1874
4	117	1 print: "Res. & landing of Capt. Wm. Roberts, San Lorenzo, Alameda County, Cal."	undated
4	118	Memorabilia, theater programs, calling cards, etc.	1862-1919

## **Series VI: Photographs, 1870-1934.**

### ***Scope and Content***

This series includes a large number of photographs, most of which are unidentified and also undated.

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
4	119	Emerson family	undated, 1905-1919
4	120	Oliver and Eugenie Emerson	undated, 1870-1922
4	121	Arthur and Elizabeth Nichols	undated, 1921
4	122	Homer family	undated, 1934
4	123	Augusta Saint Gaudens	undated
4	124-128	Unidentified (5 folders)	undated, 1896

5	129-135	Unidentified except for three photographs: Ales. and Edmund; Helen Peabody and Tom Jr.; and Abigail Smith (7 folders)	undated, 1897-1917
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